

Production No. 1F09

The Simpsons

"HOMER THE VIGILANTE"

Written by

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TABLE DRAFT

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NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"HOMER THE VIGILANTE"

by

John Swartzwelder

Cast List

HOMER.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....	JULIE KAVNER
BART.....	NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....	YEARDLEY SMITH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY....	HARRY SHEARER
DEFENSE ATTORNEY.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
NELSON.....	NANCY CARTWRIGHT
FLANDERS.....	HARRY SHEARER
BARNEY.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
REV. LOVEJOY.....	HARRY SHEARER
CHIEF WIGGUM.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
REPORTER.....	PAMELA HAYDEN
KENT BROCKMAN.....	HARRY SHEARER
PROFESSOR.....	HARRY SHEARER
PROF. FRINK.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
MOLLOY.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
GRAMPA.....	DAN CASTELLANETA
APU.....	HARRY SHEARER
RALPH WIGGUM.....	NANCY CARTWRIGHT
ADULT.....	HARRY SHEARER
ADULTS/COPS.....	DAN/PAMELA/HARRY/JULIE/NANCY

LOU.....HARRY SHEARER
VOICE FROM THE BACK.....DAN CASTELLANETA
ALMOST EVERYONE.....DAN/NANCY/YEARDLEY/HARRY
CAPTAIN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
IRISH PETE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MOE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SKINNER.....HARRY SHEARER
HERMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
TWELVE-YEAR-OLD.....PAMELA HAYDEN
JAILBIRD.....HARRY SHEARER
MRS. KRABAPPY.....PAMELA HAYDEN
FAVORSEEKER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
FIREMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
KIDS.....NANCY/DAN/PAM/HARRY
STRIPEY.....HARRY SHEARER
QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SELMA.....JULIE KAVNER
MEMBER OF MOB.....DAN CASTELLANETA
2ND MEMBER OF MOB.....DAN CASTELLANETA
JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER
ATTENDANT #1.....DAN CASTELLANETA
ATTENDANT #2.....DAN CASTELLANETA
LIONEL HUTZ.....DAN CASTELLANETA
DRIVER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
EDDIE.....HARRY SHEARER

THE SIMPSONS

"HOMER THE VIGILANTE"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - NIGHT

All we can hear is the faint sound of the SIMPSONS **SNORING** like steam engines. Suddenly, a SHADOWY FORM glides without a sound from behind a tree to the front door.

ON THE BURGLAR

He stays in shadow so we never see his face. (He's wearing white gloves, a flower in his lapel, and a fashionable overcoat with the collar pulled up around his face) He opens a small mahogany case.

BURGLAR'S POV

The case is full of amazing burglar tools. He starts to take one out, then looks up and sees a set of keys in the front door with a big key chain that says "Homer". He enters.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FOYER

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER GROWLS menacingly. The burglar takes out a hot dog shaped velvet-lined case and opens it. He hands a wiener to the dog who holds it between his front paws and begins gnawing on it. The burglar walks into the living room.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Before the burglar can begin his work, HOMER, in pajamas, wanders in, GROWLING sleepily. The burglar gives Homer a wiener. He sits next to Santa's Little Helper, and begins gnawing it the same way.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM

The burglar walks to a sleeping MARGE, takes off her necklace, and exits.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S BEDROOM

As Lisa sleeps, the burglar takes a coin encased in Lucite off the shelf.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S ROOM

BART lies sleepily in bed watching a portable TV.

ON TV

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (O.S.)

Mr. Mason, are you seriously asking the court to believe that the burglary was carried out in full view of the victim and yet the criminal was never seen?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY (O.S.)

Yuh huh.

BART

(YAWNING) No burglar's that good.

We PAN OVER to the burglar who is in the room, standing completely still. Every time Bart YAWNS, the burglar slides open a drawer. He finally pockets a binder of some kind and slips out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Homer is curled up exactly like the dog on the floor. The rest of the Simpsons rush into the room.

BART

Dad! We've been robbed.

HOMER

(SLEEPILY) Baloney. (BEAT) Mmm...

bal...

LISA

(SHAKING HIM) Wake up, Dad! There was
a burglar. He took my Susan B.
Anthony dollar embedded in Lucite...
and Mom lost her necklace!

Homer sits up and YAWNS.

HOMER

That's no big loss.

MARGE

Homer! That necklace was a priceless
Bouvier family heirloom.

HOMER

(SNORTS) You've probably got a whole
drawer full of them.

MARGE

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Well... Yes, I do.

But they're all heirlooms too.

She slides open a kitchen cabinet drawer and untangles a
necklace from a large ball of them and snaps it around her
neck.

BART

The burglar took my stamp collection
too.

LISA

(AMUSED) YOU had a stamp collection?

LISA/HOMER/MARGE

(LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY)

BART

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Well, it wasn't really a collection. Just a few choice pieces.

The phone RINGS. Bart answers it.

NELSON (V.O.)

(OVER PHONE) Stamp collection. Haw haw!

MARGE

(SUDDEN THOUGHT) Homer, if you were sleeping down here with the dog,

(POINTEDLY) AGAIN, then you must have seen the burglar.

HOMER

Huh? Oh yeah. I saw him. What's for breakfast?

LISA

(EXCITED) What did he look like?

Homer draws something and shows it to Lisa.

LISA (CONT'D)

(DISAPPOINTED) That's a hot dog, Dad.

HOMER

Oh. Right.

He looks up at the knickknack shelf. There is an empty space in the center of the knickknacks.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(GASP) Where's my World's Greatest Employee trophy? The one that shows a guy sleeping at his desk? It's the only proof I have that I'm the world's greatest employee. (BREAKING DOWN) Oh my God oh my God oh my God!

Bart picks up something from the coffee table. It's a business card in the shape of a cat.

BART

Hey, the burglar left his calling card.

Marge takes it.

MARGE

(READING) "You have just been robbed by The Springfield Cat Burglar" ... (MAKES A FACE) Cute.

FLANDERS looks in the window.

FLANDERS

Hidilly ho, neighbreenos.

HOMER

(ABSENTLY) Can't talk. Robbed. Go hell.

FLANDERS

You folks get robbed too? They took my collection of comedy beer steins.

(CLUCKS TONGUE REGRETFULLY) I used to laugh at those things for hours.

BART

Wow. It's a crime wave.

FLANDERS

And, for some reason, my electric garage door opener was stolen too.

HOMER

No, I've got that.

FLANDERS

Oh.

INT. REVEREND LOVEJOY'S HOUSE

REV. LOVEJOY'S looking at a large empty space in his bookcase.

LOVEJOY

My Gutenberg Bible! Stolen! (LOOKS UP) (SARCASTIC) Well, we've certainly been watching over our flock today, haven't we?

INT. BARNEY'S APARTMENT

BARNEY is sitting on the floor of his totally stripped apartment, looking dazed. He is nude.

BARNEY

Hey! I thought I had more stuff than this.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer picks up the phone and begins dialing.

HOMER

I'm calling the police.

LISA

We're insured, aren't we, Mom?

MARGE

Homer, tell your child what you bought
when I sent you to town to get some
insurance.

Homer looks at a jar of something on the window sill.

HOMER

(BITTER) Curse you, Magic Beans.

MARGE

(TIRED OF IT) Oh, don't blame the
beans.

HOMER

(INTO PHONE) Hello, police? Are you
sitting down? Good. I wish to report
a robbery!

INT. POLICE STATION

WIGGUM is on the phone.

WIGGUM

(INTO PHONE) Robbery. Uh huh. Thanks
for the report.

He hangs up the phone, then picks it back up and dials.

WIGGUM (CONT'D)

Shelbyville Police? I want to report a robbery. We had twelve nightsticks taken, fifteen badges, and one of our female prisoners... well, she either got stolen or she split. (LISTENS) Well, we could handle it, but - I'll be honest with you - we're a bunch of lousy cops down here and... hey! (TO EDDIE) They hung up.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

It stops. The headline says: "CAT BURGLAR STRIKES 15 HOMES!" A sub-headline reads: "MAN MARRIES WOMAN IN WEDDING CEREMONY."

INT. POLICE STATION

Wiggum is in the middle of a news conference. He has a map of the city which shows the robberies forming a nearly completed circle.

WIGGUM

For once in my career, I'm baffled.

He looks at the map.

WIGGUM (CONT'D)

There doesn't seem to be any pattern to the burglaries at all. (BEAT) Are there any questions?

Someone raises a hand.

REPORTER

How'd you get to be a cop?

WIGGUM

I had some pictures of the Mayor he
 didn't want anyone to see. Okay, I'll
 take three more questions, then I'm
 going on vacation.

ON TV

KENT BROCKMAN is giving a special report. There's a
 mortise behind him of a cat wearing a mask.

KENT BROCKMAN

When cat burglaries start, can mass
 murders be far behind? I'm not saying
 that the burglar is an inhuman monster
 like Jack the Ripper or the Wolfman,
 but he very well could be.

The mortise changes to a picture of the Wolfman with
 question marks around him. Kent turns to a scholarly
 looking GENT.

KENT BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

So, professor, would you say it's time
 for everyone to panic?

PROFESSOR

Yes, Kent.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - SUBURBAN STREET

We PAN ALONG the street. HOMEOWNERS are out in their
 yards, putting up bars over their windows. We see one MAN
 flip a switch turning on an electric fence, which instantly
 zaps TWELVE BIRDS and a MAILMAN.

ON TV

PROFESSOR FRINK is demonstrating a crudely built model of
 his new invention. It's a house with legs.

FRINK

As you can see, when the burglar trips the alarm, the house raises from its foundations and runs down the street and around a corner to safety, without ever disturbing the sleep of the occupant.

One leg of the model house **SNAPS** suddenly. The house catches fire and small burning **HUMAN FIGURES** slide out of the upstairs window.

FRINK (CONT'D)

I'm a bad inventor.

EXT. SUBURBAN SPRINGFIELD STREET

Bart walks down the street and the steel doors and shutters on the houses **SLAM** shut quickly as he approaches each house.

BART

(IMPRESSED) This neighborhood is really getting paranoid. Cool!

He throws a rock at one of the houses. Laser beams shoot out from the house and yard and vaporize the rock. The house next door raises up on its legs, runs down the street and catches fire.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - GRAMPA'S ROOM

GRAMPA has rigged up a trap for the burglar using an old-fashioned blunderbuss which is pointed at the door, with a string leading from the doorknob to the trigger.

GRAMPA

Let's see that cat burglar try to get in here now. Heh heh heh!

The door opens and an old **GENTLEMAN** named Molloy walks in.

MOLLOY

Abe, can I borrow your ointment?

The gun goes OFF with a WEAK POP and a round bullet ROLLS out of the gun and lands on Grampa's foot.

GRAMPA

Dog gone it.

EXT. QWIK-E-MART

There's a new sign on the door that says "WE'RE NEVER OPEN." APU is on the roof FIRING a shotgun at customers as they get out of their cars in the parking lot.

APU

(PLEASANTLY) Thank you for coming. I'll see you in Hell.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD

The KIDS are playing at recess. One kid puts on a mask and starts running around the playground.

RALPH WIGGUM

(YELLING) Look at me! I'm the cat burglar!

An ADULT passing by hears this.

ADULT

Good Lord!

EXT. STREET

The kid is being chased by some COPS. They catch him. He starts CRYING.

WIGGUM

We got him. The crime wave is over.

ADULTS/COPS

(CHEER)

INT. POLICE CAR

Wiggum is driving. The kid is in the back seat, **SNIFFLING**. The car stops at a stop sign. We hear the **BACK DOOR OPEN**, **SLAM SHUT**, and **FEET RUNNING OFF**. Lou looks in the back seat.

LOU

He's gone, chief.

WIGGUM

Aw, darn it. Do you remember what he
looked like?

LOU shrugs.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Homer has a cardboard cutout of himself on a long stick. He crawls on the floor, pushing it back and forth past the window. Marge watches unhappily.

MARGE

Homer, what are you doing?

HOMER

It's the perfect security system. We
take turns through the night walking
this past the window, it'll always look
like somebody's home.

MARGE

(VERY CONCERNED MURMUR)

EXT. SPRINGFIELD SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

We PAN along the neighborhood. Every home is bristling with armaments. There are **GROWLING** guard dogs, **BUZZING** **ELECTRIC FENCES** and moving searchlights.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD SUBURBAN STREET - THE NEXT MORNING

We PAN along the same street. The bars on all the windows are now laying on the lawns. The electric fences have been clipped. The homeowners stand on their lawns holding cat-shaped calling cards, all are AD-LIBBING "I've been robbed!" "How did he get in?" and "Where did you get that wiener?" etc.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

It spins up, almost stops, then a shadowy hand grabs it and replaces it with his cat burglar card.

INT. FLANDERS HOUSE - NIGHT

A couple of dozen NEIGHBORS are in Flanders' rumpus room. Flanders is standing on top of a bar stool, addressing them.

FLANDERS

Since the police can't seem to get off
their hind ends and get this darn cat
burglar behind bars, I think we should
start our own neighborhood watch!

Flanders suddenly notices that Chief Wiggum is in the back, wolfing down appetizers as fast as he can.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

(FLUSTERED) Oh! Chief Wiggum! I
didn't see you come in.

Wiggum waves this aside and continues eating.

WIGGUM

'Sall right. Hey listen, after you've
caught the cat burglar, there's a
couple of unsolved murders I'd like you
to take a pop at.

FLANDERS

Well, I doubt that we'll catch anyone, but our mere presence might stop some homes from being robbed. Now, who should lead the group?

VOICE FROM THE BACK

You!

Everyone immediately CHORUSES their agreement.

ALMOST EVERYONE

Flanders! Flanders!

FLANDERS

(EMBARRASSED) Me? Well... all right.
If you really want me to. Golly.

HOMER

Hold it! Hold it! How come Flanders always gets to lead everything all the time? Why not me?

VOICE FROM THE BACK (O.S.)

Because we like him better!

HOMER

I'm just as good a leader as Flanders.

VOICE FROM THE BACK (O.S.)

The hell you are!

HOMER

We don't need clear thinking and level headedness. We need action. Who's with me?

BARNEY

I'm with you, Homer.

The CAPTAIN comes forward.

CAPTAIN

I be with ya too, matey.

SKINNER, MOE, OTTO and Apu step forward and AD-LIB variations of "I'M WITH YOU, HOMER."

Grampa comes forward excitedly.

GRAMPA

I'll join! Wait here while I go get my flintlock and chain mail waistcoat.

HOMER

(CONSIDERS HIM BRIEFLY) Sorry, Dad.

You're too old.

GRAMPA

Too old! That just means I have experience. Why I was running ethnic groups out of town before any of you were born. Who chased the Irish out of Springfield Village in ought four? Me, that's who!

IRISH PETE

And a fine job ye did too!

HOMER

(KINDLY) Dad, you've done a lot of great things, but you can't do great things ANYMORE. You're a very old man, and old people are useless. (TICKLING HIM) Aren't they? Aren't they?

GRAMPA

(GIGGLES BRIEFLY, THEN GETS ANGRY)
Well, I guess that means I'm with you, Flanders.

FLANDERS

(HESITANT) Well... you are kinda... elderly.

Lisa leads Grampa off.

LISA

Come on, Grampa. Let's go have some nice water.

Homer's group is all gathered around him brandishing rifles and shotguns.

HOMER

(SMUG) So, Flanders. I guess we'll have two groups guarding the neighborhood. And we'll just see who does the better job.

FLANDERS

(AMIABLE) That's a Jim Dandy idea. That way we'll be doubling our effectiveness.

HOMER

(BAD SPORT) I'll double your effectiveness!

Some of Homer's men start loading their guns. Marge watches this with concern.

MARGE

I don't think the guns are a good idea, Homer.

HOMER

Marge, we're responsible adults and...

One of the shotguns goes OFF.

MOE

Oops.

HOMER (CONT'D)

... and if a group of responsible adults can't handle firearms in a responsible way...

SFX: GUNSHOT

THE CAPTAIN

Sorry.

SFX: GUNSHOT

SKINNER

(CHUCKLING) Uh-oh!

SFX: GUNSHOT

MOE

(SHEEPISH) Me again.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MOE'S

Homer and Barney are bent over backside to backside, shaking hands between their legs. They stand up, satisfied.

HOMER

Okay, we've got the secret handshake.

Now we need code names. Okay, I'll be

"Cueball". Skinner can be

"Eightball", Moe will be "Twelveball"

and Barney, you can be "Cueball."

INT. HERMAN'S MILITARY ANTIQUES

Homer and his boys are waiting patiently as HERMAN adds up their purchases. One of their guns goes OFF, but nobody pays any attention.

HERMAN

Five knuckledusters, twelve bludgeons, fourteen blackjacks, one board with a nail in it.

He looks at them narrowly.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Got something on our minds, have we?

HOMER

We're going to clean up this town.

Herman looks around furtively, then motions for Homer to follow him.

HERMAN

(LOW) Come with me.

EXT. HERMAN'S - BACK YARD

Herman and Homer are standing next to a small but nasty looking bomb. It's pretty rusted. It has "HI THERE, DADDY-O" chalked on one side.

HERMAN

It's a miniature version of the A-bomb.
The government built it in the fifties
to drop on beatniks. I can let you
have it for eight million dollars.

HOMER

I won't go one cent higher than five
million.

HERMAN

Fine. I'll just sell it to somebody
else.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD SUBURBAN STREET

Homer and his group are strolling arrogantly down the street. They're all wearing different homemade uniforms. Some have military style shirts, some bowling shirts, cub scout uniforms etc. Apu has a pot on his head. We see Flanders' group approaching. They are plucking stranded cats from trees and righting overturned garbage cans as they go.

HOMER

Uh-oh. Here comes trouble. (LOUD AND
CHALLENGING) Hey you!

The two groups confront each other.

FLANDERS

(TIGHTLY) Hello Homer.

HOMER

I thought I told you this was our turf.
We're handling everything south of Oak
Street.

FLANDERS

Is that so? We'll just see about that.

The two groups circle each other warily. We hear RUMBLE MUSIC from *West Side Story*. We cut back and forth between members of the two groups fingering their weapons and eyeing each other. Flanders takes a piece of paper from his pocket.

FLANDERS (CONT'D)

Rightely rooney. You do have this
street. Let's go, fellas.

Flanders' group marches off, picking up litter as they go. Grampa runs up, dressed in a World War I general's uniform.

GRAMPA

General Simpson reporting for duty.

Homer and all of his men LAUGH. Apu is LAUGHING so hard the pot on his head is RATTLING.

APU

What a ridiculous getup!

BARNEY

And get a load of how out-of-shape he
is!

HOMER

Go home, Dad. You're too old.

GRAMPA

(GIGGLES BRIEFLY, THEN GETS ANGRY) I'm
too old, eh? Well I'll show you. I'll
show all of ya.

He stalks off angrily.

GRAMPA (O.S.)

(SURPRISED GROAN)

ON GRAMPA

He has his butt caught on a bush and his head stuck in a coffee can.

GRAMPA

(SADLY. A LITTLE REVERB) Old people
can't do nothin'.

MONTAGE

A) Homer and his men are positioned around a twenty dollar bill that is laying on a pillow in the middle of a field.

HOMER

Okay, when the cat burglar tries to
take the twenty dollar bill...

BARNEY

It's gone!

Homer looks. The money is gone. A cat-shaped business card is on the pillow.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

He digs in his pockets and puts some change on the pillow.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Okay. When the cat burglar is
attracted by the eighty cents...

BARNEY

That's gone too!

HOMER

(BIG ANNOYED GRUNT)

B) Homer has an old Indian motorcycle with a side car. He gets in the sidecar and folds his arms smugly as Barney KICK STARTS the engine.

HOMER

Bart, give me that megaphone of yours.

BART

It's not just a megaphone, Dad. It's a RapMaster 200.

HOMER

Never mind the commercials. Just give it to me. I've got to whip this neighborhood into shape.

Bart hands over the megaphone. Homer and Barney ROAR off.

C) Homer and Barney, in their motorcycle, pass by a TWELVE YEAR OLD standing in a driveway. Homer pulls out the rapping megaphone and turns it on. It begins emitting a LOUD RAP BEAT.

HOMER

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE) Move along there.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD

(AWESTRUCK) It's Hammer!

D) Homer, still on his motorcycle, is being followed by a crowd of DANCING TEENAGERS. He YELLS back at them through his RapMaster 200.

HOMER

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE) Return to your homes and places of business!

The teenagers start dancing even more wildly.

E) Flanders and his men are in their car chasing JAILBIRD. Jailbird sneers at them and floors it. His car doubles its speed.

JAILBIRD

Sayonara, Vigilantes!

FLANDERS

Well if he's going to exceed the speed limit there's nothing we can do.

LOVEJOY

(MILD WARNING) The light's about to turn yellow, Ned.

Flanders SLAMS on the brakes.

FLANDERS

Thanks for warning me.

F) Homer and his men are patrolling past an apartment building when they hear what sound like GUNSHOTS. They look at each other with wild surmise, then charge up the stairs. They break into the apartment and wrestle a popcorn popper to the ground.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

For the tenth time, it's just a popcorn popper!

APU

There's no need to thank us.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

I wasn't going to thank you!

HOMER

Not at all, ma'am. Just doing our job.

Let's go, men.

They exit. As they close the door they hear what sounds like **GUNSHOTS** coming from the apartment again. They look at each other then charge back in.

G) At Moe's, Homer sits at a table in the back, surrounded by his men. An **ITALIAN PEASANT** hands Homer a live **CHICKEN** and backs away, bowing. Homer takes the chicken, hands it to the Captain who puts it with a bushel of corn, a broken toaster and other crappy gifts. A **MAN** wearing a suit moves to the head of the line.

HOMER

What favor do you seek, my son?

FAVORSEEKER

(ANGRY) When you have your damn meetings, would you not park in my loading zone?

HOMER

It will be done. (BEAT) Someday I may call on you for a favor.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is putting a broken Robbie The Robot toy on a coffee table that already has rotting farm produce, broken toasters, old hats etc. on it.

MARGE

Homer, I want you to give up all this vigilante business right now.

HOMER

Marge, I've dedicated my life to being a crime fighter!

MARGE

No you haven't.

HOMER

Well... I've dedicated the month of
March to it.

MARGE

(ANNOYED MURMUR)

INT. POLICE STATION

Wiggum is lounging with his feet up, eating a donut. Eddie comes running in.

EDDIE

Someone's burning leaves on their lawn,
Chief. What'll we do?

WIGGUM

Leaves, eh? (THINKS) Well, we could...
or, if that didn't work we...
(SUDDENLY GRIM) I think this is a job
for Homer Simpson.

He activates a beacon which beams the outline of Homer's shape in the sky. After a long beat Wiggum looks at Eddie.

WIGGUM (CONT'D)

He might not be looking up in the sky
right now. I'll call him on the
SimpPhone.

He picks up a telephone that's shaped like Homer and starts dialing it.

WIGGUM (CONT'D)

(MUTTERING TENSELY) Faith and begorra.

EDDIE

(TENSELY) Bejabbers.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME

A man is burning leaves. Homer and his thugs race up and kick the burning leaves all over the place, starting several large fires, including one on the roof of a garage.

HOMER

Let's go.

They run off. The man watches them for a moment, then starts trying to put out some of the fires.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - SCHOOL YARD

Bart, MILHOUSE, RICHARD, LEWIS and WENDELL swagger across the school yard to DOLPH, KEARNEY and JIMBO, who are roughing up MARTIN.

BART

You have five seconds to drop the nerd
and vacate the teeter-totter area.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - SCHOOL YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The kid vigilantes are all sitting on the ground, bruised and CRYING. Jimbo, Dolph and Kearney admire their handiwork. PULL BACK to see Bart is tied upside down to the tether ball pole.

BART

They overpowered us.

INT. SMARTLINE STUDIO

Homer is a special guest on "Smartline."

BROCKMAN

Mr. Simpson, how do you respond to the charge that not only is the cat burglar still at large, but other crimes are up 11% since you formed your group?

HOMER

People can come up with statistics to prove anything, Kent. Math is a very imprecise subject.

KENT BROCKMAN

So what you're saying is... ?

HOMER

Anything with numbers in it is wrong.

KENT BROCKMAN

I see. Well, what do you say to the accusation that your group has been causing more crimes than it's been preventing?

HOMER

Kent, I'd be lying if I said my men weren't committing crimes. But the only way to put out a house fire is to set more of the house on fire, right?

ON THE AUDIENCE

A FIREMEN in the audience stands up.

FIREMAN

That's not right! That's wrong!

Moe and the Captain grab the fireman and hustle him out the back.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

The headline says: "WORLD'S LARGEST CUBIC ZIRCONIA TO SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM".

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

The headline says: "FAKE DIAMOND SAFE FROM BURGLARS VOWS SIMPSON".

EXT. SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM - NIGHT

Homer's men are guarding every door and window. Homer and Skinner are guarding the front door.

SKINNER

Any sign of the burglar yet?

HOMER

(SMALL SMILE) He'll show.

SKINNER

How's that?

HOMER

It's his job.

SKINNER

How's that?

HOMER

He's a burglar.

MUSIC CUE: DRAGNET STYLE STING

We cut back and forth between them as they exchange an endless series of Dragnet-style significant glances. During this, we see the cat burglar slink by them into the museum.

INT. SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM

The cat burglar approaches the cubic zirconia, which is in a glass case. There's a web of laser beams guarding the stone. The cat burglar walks over to a light switch that says "LASER BEAM. DO NOT TURN OFF." He flips it and all the laser beams disappear.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM

Homer has spotted something through his field glasses.

HOMER

(GRIMLY) Oh my God! Underage kids
drinking imported beer!

INT. SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM

The cat burglar grabs the zirconia, puts his calling card in its place and exits.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM

Homer is chugging beer as the kids urge him on.

KIDS

Go! Go! Go!

The kids are next to a statue which is pointing at the museum. ALARMS are going off and lights are flashing. The cat burglar is putting the zirconia in the trunk of a car and tying down the trunk lid with a rope.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

The headline says "ZIRCONIA ZTOLEN!" and "SIMPSON ASLEEP AT SWITCH" and shows a picture of Homer passed out in the park in front of the museum.

INT. SIMPSON HOME

The family is eating breakfast. Homer throws down the paper.

HOMER

Asleep at the switch! I wasn't asleep!
I was drunk!

BART

I believe you Dad.

HOMER

I've got to redeem myself. And there's
only one way to do that. I've got to
bring in that cat burglar. Right now.

He gets up and heads for the door.

MARGE

Don't you want the rest of your
breakfast?

Homer stops at the door.

HOMER

(FIRMLY) Yes-I-do!

He comes back to the table, sits down and begins eating.

INT. POLICE STATION

Homer and his men have brought in twenty prisoners. One of them is Flanders.

FLANDERS

Homer, I couldn't be the cat burglar.

I'm Flanders.

HOMER

(TO WIGGUM) Here you go, Chief. Twenty
cat burglars.

WIGGUM

Look Simpson, you can't just go around
arresting everybody. We don't have the
room since the budget cut-backs at the
zoo.

Pan over to see the jail cells now hold pacing lions and tigers. We see JAILBIRD hanging from the ceiling.

JAILBIRD

Those cats ate my cigarettes.

WIGGUM

From now on why don't you just
concentrate on bringing in people who
look like criminals.

HOMER

(DIMLY) Look like criminals?

Wiggum pulls a large criminology book down from the shelf. He takes a secret comic book out of the middle and opens it to a picture of a stereotypical criminal cartoon escaped prisoner with striped shirt, mask, beret, etc.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MOE'S

Homer is holding up the same picture for his gang of vigilantes. Behind the picture in the background, the door to Moe's opens and a MAN who looks exactly like the picture walks in and sits down.

HOMER

(GASPS) Barney! There's the cat
burglar! (LOW) But we have to be sure.
I'll check him out.

Homer sidles up to him.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SMOOTHLY) How are you this evening?

STRIPEY

Fine.

HOMER

(YELLING) It's him!

All the vigilantes attack Stripey, knocking him off a bar stool and wrestling him to the ground.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

Headline: "CAT BURGLAR CAPTURED AT LAST!" There's a big picture of Stripey.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Stripey is sitting on the couch. The family is standing there looking at him.

MARGE

Homer, why did you bring that man here?

HOMER

Well, they're trying to mate the panda bears at the jail and they're very bashful. (RE: STRIPEY) We've got to keep an eye on him. He's a pretty slippery character.

Stripey starts to get up.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Back down on that couch. What did I tell you, Marge.

Stripey sits back down. Homer puts some seat cushions around him.

HOMER (CONT'D)

That ought to hold you.

LISA

You can't violate this man's civil rights by holding him prisoner.

HOMER

Why not? It's a free country.

There is the NOISE of an approaching mob outside. Homer looks up.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE

An angry mob has arrived and is pressing in on the Simpson house.

QUIMBY

(YELLING) Bring out the cat burglar!

Homer appears in the doorway and surveys the mob calmly.

HOMER

Sorry, boys. I'm not going to have any mob mentality around here. This is vigilante justice.

QUIMBY

You've got five minutes to bring him out. Then we're coming in.

HOMER

We'll just see about that.

He goes inside.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM

Homer is hurriedly removing the cushions from around Stripey.

HOMER

I'm going to give you to the mob, okay?

STRIPEY

(FRIENDLY) Okay. Sure. I understand.

SELMA runs in.

SELMA

There's been another burglary!

Somebody stole my lock of MacGyver's hair!

FLASHBACK:

RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON, wearing a tank top, relaxes in a directors chair, hands behind his head. Selma walks into FRAME and rips out a handful of his armpit hair. He SCREAMS in pain.

SELMA

Gotten.

She exits.

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

(TO STRIPEY) How could you have robbed
Selma when you were locked up on my
couch the whole time?

STRIPEY

I'll be honest with you. I don't think
I did it.

HOMER

Well then... wait a minute... if the
robberies are still going on... and
you're in here...

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM

SUPER: "ONE HOUR LATER"

HOMER

... then that must mean... (SUDDEN
HORROR)... you're not the cat burglar
at all!

Stripey has fallen asleep on the couch. Homer wakes him up.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I'm awful sorry about all this. You
can go now. And here...

He looks at all the junk on his coffee table, picks up a dented silver tea service and hands it to Stripey.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Take this silver tea service with you,
for your trouble.

STRIPEY

Well, that's awfully nice of you.

Thanks.

He exits.

QUIMBY (O.S.)

There he is!

MEMBER OF MOB (O.S.)

And he's stolen an exquisite silver tea
service!

2ND MEMBER OF MOB (O.S.)

Get him!

We hear RUNNING FEET, a tea service CLANGING on the ground
and a mob giving a man a savage beating.

STRIPEY (O.S.)

(WEAKLY) Lord help me!

HOMER

Hmmmm. I probably should have let them
know he was innocent.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE

Homer is helping Stripey up as the subdued mob looks on.

QUIMBY

(TO STRIPEY) I feel in many ways we owe
you an apology. We'll make it up to
you. I will see to it that the
newspapers print a correction that will
clear your name.

STRIPEY

I'll go wait by the paper box.

He hurries off. Grampa runs up.

GRAMPA

So I'm too old, am I? Ha hah! I just
found the cat burglar, that's how old I
am. He's living at the retirement home
under the name of Molloy.

HOMER

Go home, Dad. (COAXING HIM) Go home,
boy.

QUIMBY

Wait a minute, old man. What makes you
think this guy Molloy is the burglar?

Grampa puts his hands behind his back and clears his
throat.

GRAMPA

(RECITING) I first began to suspect something when I noticed that Mr. Molloy, unlike most retired people, has the world's largest cubic zirconia on his coffee table. And he always comes home late at night chuckling and saying "Ha-ha. Another successful cat burglary".

HOMER

Ha! You call that evidence?

GRAMPA

He's even got that stupid trophy of yours.

HOMER

(AGONIZED) My trophy! (TO THE MOB)

To the retirement home!

The mob races off waving their guns and clubs. Grampa starts to follow. Homer stops him.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Not you. You're too old.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME

The mob SMASHES in the door of the old folks home and charges in. All the old folks look thrilled.

JASPER

(ECSTATIC) People are coming to visit us!

All the OLD FOLKS CHEER feebly. The mob knocks them over.

JASPER (CONT'D)

(GASPING) It's still better than being ignored.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - CAT BURGLAR'S ROOM

The room is tastefully decorated with recently stolen loot, including the stuff stolen from the Simpsons and the world's largest cubic zirconia. A hand reaches up and grabs a small gag trophy.

ON HOMER

He looks at the trophy fondly.

HOMER

(QUIET SATISFACTION) I'm once again the World's Greatest Employee!

Homer walks up to Molloy, a dapper old David Nivenish GENTLEMAN, who is being held by members of the mob.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SMOOTHLY) So, Mr. Molloy. We meet again.

MOLLOY

Actually I don't believe I've had the pleasure of meeting any of you fine people. But if anyone was going to catch me, I'm glad it was you.

SKINNER

(PLEASANTLY SURPRISED) Why, he's charming!

BARNEY

Let's let him go!

SKINNER

No, but we'll all be character
witnesses on his behalf.

The mob CHEERS heartily and carries Molloy out on their shoulders.

CU - SPINNING NEWSPAPER

Headline "REAL CAT BURGLAR CAUGHT"

Many pages turn near the back to a headline that reads:
"SACK OF FLOUR SOLD." A much smaller headline reads:
"STRIPED SHIRT MAN INNOCENT."

INT. POLICE STATION

Molloy is in a jail cell. Homer is bouncing around outside the cell taunting him. Wiggum, Eddie and Lou look on.

HOMER

(LIKE MUHAMMAD ALI) I caught YOU! I
caught YOU! I'm a bad man.

MOLLOY

I suppose you're wondering how I got my
start in crime and where I hid the
million dollars I stole over the years.

HOMER

Shut up.

WIGGUM

Wait a minute. Maybe we should hear
him out. Go ahead, Molloy. You've got
five minutes.

MOLLOY

I wasn't always a criminal. In 1963 I was hired by Vice President Lyndon Johnson to take a package to the book depository in...

WIGGUM

(INTERRUPTING) Never mind that garbage. Where'd you hide the million bucks?

MOLLOY

It's buried right here in Springfield, under a Big T.

Wiggum, Eddie, Lou and Homer all look steadily at each other as they inch towards the door.

HOMER

Well, I'll be going now.

WIGGUM

Yeah, me too.

They all bolt for the door.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

They run outside, elbowing their way past people on the street.

HOMER

(FRANTIC) Lemme through! I gotta find a Big T. There's a million dollars buried under a Big T!

Everyone on the street **SHRIEKS** with excitement and begins running. We see a number of people run into hardware stores and come out with picks and shovels.

OVERHEAD SHOT OF DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

There are Big T's everywhere. The Big T Theater, The Tea Factory, Big T Burgers and Fries," Eat at Fred's," The Big T Building, and the layout of the town is in the shape of a Big T. Holes are being dug up everywhere by excited townspeople.

ON BARNEY

He's trying to dig a hole under a flamboyant gold chain-wearing mohawked MUSCLE MAN a la Mr. T.

BARNEY

Quit moving, will ya?

INT. POLICE STATION - MOLLOY'S CELL

The mob comes running back in, crowding around the cell.

WIGGUM

We need more information.

MOLLOY

It's buried at 4723 Maple Valley Road.

Everyone just stares at him, waiting.

MOLLOY (CONT'D)

You take highway 201 south for 15 minutes... look, I'll draw you a map.

He starts sketching out a map. Everyone crowds closer to watch.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

SUPER: "ONE HOUR LATER"

Molloy has drawn a large beautiful hand colored map and has drawn in fourteen arrows, all pointing to the spot where his money is buried. Wiggum grabs the map.

WIGGUM

That's all we need to know! Let's go,
boys!

They all run out.

MONTAGE

The SCORE for "It's A Mad Mad Mad Mad World" starts here and continues under this and the following montage.

A) Homer and Barney get in Homer's motorcycle and tear off down the road.

B) Dr. Hibbert and Nick Riviera pile into an ambulance, shove out a sick person who's in back on a stretcher and PEEL RUBBER down the street.

C) Skinner, Otto, and KRABAPPEL are hurtling down the street in a school bus. It barrels through a flashing railroad crossing, just missing a speeding train. We hear KIDS yelling "WHEE!" in the back.

D) PATTY and Selma are in the back seat of a cropduster flown by BUDDY HACKETT.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME

The old folks are watching television.

ON TV

Brockman has a map of the Springfield area behind him with pins in it.

KENT BROCKMAN

Hordes of panicky people seem to be evacuating the town for some unknown reason. Professor, without knowing precisely what the danger is, would you say it's time for our viewers to take their own lives by drinking some sort of poisonous household cleanser?

PROFESSOR

Yes, Kent.

ON GRAMPA AND JASPER

GRAMPA

Everybody's looking for the treasure.

But I'm the only person in the whole
world who knows where it is.

(CHUCKLES)

JASPER

Everyone knows. The only reason we're
not going is we'd be the last ones
there.

GRAMPA

My side hurts.

MONTAGE

A) Our characters are racing side by side, BANGING the
sides of their cars together.

B) They all pass a car that is disappearing into a small
stream as the DRIVER folds his arms and waits for it to
sink. Bart watches from the river bank.

DRIVER

(A LA PHIL SILVERS) Whatsa matter with
you, kid? You told me the stream was
shallow. Why you... (FRUSTRATED
LAUGHTER)

The car completely disappears; only the driver's hat
floats.

BART

(EVIL CHUCKLE)

C) Homer is YELLING at two wimpy gas station attendants.

HOMER

(BLIND FURY) What do you mean the rest
rooms are for customers only?

Homer starts to tear the gas station to pieces, throwing
chunks of it at the attendants.

ATTENDANT #1

(ALMOST HYSTERICAL BUT DEFIANT, A LA
ARNOLD STANG) You can't use the rest
room!

Homer continues to demolish the station.

ATTENDANT #2

(A LA MARVIN KAPLAN) He's crazy.

They look at each other.

ATTENDANT #1

We're gonna have to kill him.

They try to stop Homer, but he easily overpowers them. He
shoves a wall of the building over and the gas station
collapses in sections.

D) Patty and Selma's cropduster flies through a Duff Beer
sign.

E) A bunch of beat up cars and taxis all race up a windy
road, past THREE FIREMEN who look like the 3 Stooges, into
a park with trees that form the shapes of every letter in
the alphabet.

EXT. PARK

Our characters pile out of their cars and run up to the Big
T. All except Homer, who starts digging under the big "R"
for a moment.

HOMER

(GRUNTS OF EXERTION--REALIZES--
FRUSTRATED NOISE)

He joins the others. Everyone starts digging frantically. LIONEL HUTZ watches them dig for awhile.

LIONEL HUTZ

Okay, let's figure out how many of us there are, so we can divide up the money when we find it. Let's see... there's forty two people, that's 96 shares. One for each of you and fifty five for me.

HOMER

Sounds good.

PAN ALONG our characters watching excitedly as Otto and Homer take over the digging.

SKINNER

He found something!

Otto holds up a dirt covered valise. As everyone crowds around excitedly, Wiggum opens it and looks inside. There is a dramatic pause, then...

WIGGUM

(DISAPPOINTED) It's just a piece of paper.

HOMER

(EXCITED) It's mine!

Homer grabs the note.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(READING) "If you're reading this note it means you caught me and I told you there was a hidden treasure. There isn't. And I have already used this time to escape from your jail. Fondest wishes." I can't read the signature.

Everyone looks at each other, disappointed.

APU

(SHAKES HEAD SADLY) All our work for nothing. (BEAT) America stinks.

BARNEY

Let's divide up the note.

BURNS (O.S.)

All right everybody. Back away.

BURNS is holding an ancient flintlock pistol on the crowd. He takes the valise and joins SMITHERS in a zeppelin.

BURNS

Nobody moves from this spot for 30 minutes. Let's go, Smithers. We'll open the valise when we get to Uruguay.

SMITHERS

Good thinking, sir.

The zeppelin rises into the air and flies off. Moments later it CRASHES into a building and BURSTS into flame.

EXT. PARK

The treasure seekers are still standing in the park near the Big T.

OTTO

Hey, maybe there's something under
these other letters.

BARNEY

Makes sense to me.

Everyone starts digging excitedly.

MOE

Hey, an old tennis shoe!

SKINNER

An apple core covered with ants!

OTTO

A human skull!

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME

Grampa, Jasper and the others are watching television. Molloy is sitting next to them. Grampa and Jasper eye Molloy. Molloy smiles and nods pleasantly at them.

JASPER

(TO GRAMPA) Maybe we should tell
somebody he's here.

GRAMPA

They'd never believe us.

JASPER

Yeah. You're right. He might not even
really be here for all we know.

GRAMPA

(SADLY) Yeah. We're awfully old.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE